

ABSTRACT

The Brennan Site (7NC-F-61A) is a small prehistoric archaeological site where jasper, from nearby outcrops of the Delaware Chalcedony Complex, was reduced to produce a variety of different stone tools. Phase III data recovery excavations were undertaken at the site to collect data on stone tool production activities. Diagnostic artifacts from earlier Phase II excavations indicate that the site was occupied during the Woodland I Period (ca. 3000 B.C. - A.D. 1000). Flake attribute analysis of a random sample of jasper debitage from the Brennan Site showed that primary jasper bifaces and cores almost exclusively served the lithic needs of the site's inhabitants. Although a semi-sedentary settlement system appears to have been present in northern Delaware during the Woodland I Period, and though such systems have been associated with an emphasis on core technology, evidence from the Brennan artifact assemblage suggests that biface technology played an important role in the curated tool kits of the Brennan Site's occupants. The site was probably occupied by prehistoric people who were returning to distant base camps after a visit to the Delaware Chalcedony Complex quarries.

Cover Illustration: Air view of the Brennan Site excavations in relation to existing Route 896 and right-of-way of the new road. Iron Hill, a major source of the stone materials used by the site's prehistoric inhabitants, is located eight kilometers north of the site along Route 896.